



The Greater Metropolitan
Cemeteries Trust
Lasting memories, peaceful places.

Removal of sugar gum trees Fawkner Memorial Park chapels complex

COMMUNITY UPDATE | DECEMBER 2016

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT) is proud to provide a safe environment in our parks. Our dedicated arboriculture staff monitor the health of existing trees and plan for future tree planting in GMCT's cemeteries.

Overview

Trees and other flora throughout Fawkner Memorial Park are an important aspect of the landscape of this cemetery. They provide a home to native wildlife and help create a peaceful and pleasant environment for visiting families and the general public.

Unfortunately, recent extreme weather impacted significantly on 26 trees located in the car park of the Fawkner Memorial Park chapels, including the uprooting of an entire tree. Compaction of the soil in the vicinity has contributed to a decline in the health and structure of the trees, particularly their roots.

The area has since been cordoned off to the public.

As a result of the assessment, an independent arboriculturalist has determined that the trees in question present a risk to the public with a high risk of branches, and possibly the full tree, falling.

The area is frequently visited and the instability of the trees presents a significant risk to both members of the public and staff. As a result, GMCT has determined that the trees should be removed as soon as possible.

GMCT has obtained a permit of exemption from Heritage Victoria and has approval to remove the trees on public safety grounds. The trees will be removed by qualified arborists.

GMCT has informed Moreland City Council of the planned tree removals. As Moreland City Council agrees that the works are an emergency, it has given approval for removal of the trees without a permit.

Location

Car parks adjacent to the chapels at Fawkner Memorial Park, at Fourth Avenue and Crematorium Drive. The 26 trees to be removed are marked in blue on the map below.

Car parking

The area is currently not available to the public for parking and is roped off. The public are asked not to enter the area before or during the removal works. Once the trees have been removed and the area cleared, the site will be re-opened to the public and available for public car parking.

Replacement landscaping and planting will be planned in the future.

Date of works:

The works are scheduled to take place over the weekend of 17 and 18 December, 2016, pending suitable weather conditions. This will minimise disruption to chapel services and visitors, and assist funeral directors providing funeral services.

A priority for GMCT will be ensuring the trees are re-utilised within the park, as much as possible.

- All mulch generated from the works will be utilised on garden beds throughout the park
- Logs will be utilised to create habitat and bollards
- Remaining wood will be removed by the contractor.

For further information please contact:

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